

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) In a communication system wherein a request for web content is transmitted over a communication path from a client station to a content server, a method comprising the following functions carried out during transmission of the web request within the communication path, between the client station and the content server:

computing a size-based cost to access the web content;
engaging in interstitial communication with the client station to receive user approval to pay the size-based cost; and
after receiving the user approval, sending the request along to the content server.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein computing the size-based cost to access the web content comprises:

multiplying a charging-rate by a size of the web content.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein computing the size-based cost to access the web content further comprises:

selecting the charging rate based at least in part on a factor selected from the group consisting of (i) a service level of a user requesting the web content and (ii) a time of day.

4. (Currently amended) In a communication system wherein web content is transmitted over a communication path from a content server to a client station, a method comprising the following functions carried out during transmission of the web ~~request~~ content within the communication path, between the content server and the client station:

computing a size-based cost to access the web content;

engaging in interstitial communication with the client station to receive user approval to pay the size-based cost; and

after receiving the user approval, sending the web content along to the client station.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein computing the size-based cost to access the web content comprises:

multiplying a charging-rate by a size of the web content.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein computing the size-based cost to access the web content further comprises:

selecting the charging rate based at least in part on a factor selected from the group consisting of (i) a service level of a user requesting the web content and (ii) a time of day.

7-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) In a communication system wherein web content is transmitted over a communication path from a content server to a client station, the web content defining a

hyperlink to be presented by a browser running on the client station, the hyperlink pointing to referenced web content, a method comprising:

during transmission of the web content within the communication path, between the content server and the client station, (i) computing a size-based cost to access the web content and (ii) adding an indication of the size-based cost into the web content, in conjunction with the hyperlink, such that the indication will be presented to a user when the web content is presented to the user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the communication path extends from the content server, over a packet-switched network, and through an access channel to the client station, the method further comprising:

carrying out at least the adding function within the access channel.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
engaging in interstitial communication with the user, to collect user-payment of the size-based cost for the referenced web content.

16. (Original) In a communication system wherein web content is transmitted over a communication path from a content server to a client station, a method comprising, during transmission of the web content within the communication path, the following functions:

receiving the web content;

detecting a hyperlink within the web content, wherein the hyperlink points to referenced web content;

determining a cost of the referenced web content based at least in part on a size of the referenced web content;

adding into the web content, in conjunction with the hyperlink, an indication of the determined cost; and

sending the web content, including the indication, along the access channel to the client station,

whereby the indication will be presented to a user when the web content is presented to the user, thereby giving the user an advanced notice of the cost of the referenced web content.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the communication path comprises an access channel between the client station and a packet-switched network, the method comprising carrying out the functions within the access channel.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein determining the size-based cost comprises multiplying a charging rate by the size of the web content.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the web content is defined by a set of markup language, and wherein adding the indication of the size-based cost in conjunction

with the hyperlink comprises adding into the set of markup language, adjacent to the hyperlink, display text indicative of the size-based cost.

20. (Original) An intermediation system disposed within a web communication path between a client station and a packet-switched network, the intermediation system comprising:

a network interface for receiving and sending communications on the HTTP communication path, wherein the network interface receives a communication that carries web content and the web content defines a hyperlink that points to referenced web content;

cost-computation logic for computing a size-based cost to access the referenced web content; and

cost-embellishment logic for inserting into the web content an indication of the size-based cost to access the referenced web content and for thereby establishing cost-embellished web content,

wherein the network interface sends the cost-embellished web content along the access channel for ultimate receipt and presentation of the cost-embellished web content by a browser running on the client station.

21. (Original) The intermediation system of claim 20, wherein the cost-computation logic and cost-embellishment logic are embodied in software executable by a processor.

22. (Original) The intermediation system of claim 20, wherein the communication path comprises an access channel between the client station and a packet-switched network, and wherein the intermediation system is disposed within the access channel.

23. (Original) The intermediation system of claim 22, wherein the client station is a mobile station, and the access channel comprises an air interface and a radio access network.

24. (Original) The intermediation system of claim 22, further comprising:
size data that specifies the size of the referenced web content,
wherein the cost-computation logic computes the size-based cost at least in part by applying a charging-rate to the size.

25. (Original) The intermediation system of claim 22, further comprising:
exception data that indicates whether a user of the client station already has a right to access the referenced web content,
wherein the cost-embellishment logic does not insert the indication of size-based cost if the exception data specifies that the user of the client station already has a right to access the referenced web content.